

# Tobacco Industry Documents Research

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As part of the Master Settlement Agreement between the tobacco industry and states' attorneys general, more than 33 million internal tobacco industry documents were deposited into two locations (Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Guilford, England) and made publicly available. Documents for the major U.S. cigarette companies are held in electronic format in Minnesota and at [www.tobaccoresolution.com](http://www.tobaccoresolution.com) (August 5, 2003). Paper copies of the British American Tobacco (BAT) company's documents are held in England. Electronic copies of the Minnesota documents and some England documents have been placed on independent Web sites, including the American Legacy Collection in the University of California San Francisco's library and [www.tobaccodocuments.org](http://www.tobaccodocuments.org) (August 5, 2003).

The National Cancer Institute funds 17 projects to research tobacco industry documents. Projects include research on how the tobacco industry targeted high-risk groups including adolescents, young adults, members of labor unions, and gay and lesbians. Other projects focus on the design and performance of cigarettes and how these impact on disease including addiction. A number of projects examine how the industry opposed public health policies at the State level, including opposition to laws restricting public smoking and taxation. Two projects address the tobacco industry's marketing in Asia and Eastern Europe.

The Massachusetts project has examined how cigarettes are designed to promote youth initiation, cause and maintain addiction, mask the dangers of secondhand smoke, and influence human smoking behaviors. This presentation will review the findings of this project.

The depositories contain tens of thousands of scientific studies conducted by the tobacco industry that have not been published in the scientific literature. Many of the studies directly relate to areas that are being researched by the scientific community including the impact of marketing and advertising on youth, genetics and smoking, nicotine dependence, harm reduction, and health effects of tobacco use. Researchers can benefit from reviews of tobacco industry internal studies by better understanding how the tobacco industry has promoted tobacco use.